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ADD A LITTLE PEACH PIZZAZZ HOLIDAY PUNCH RECIPES {page 14}

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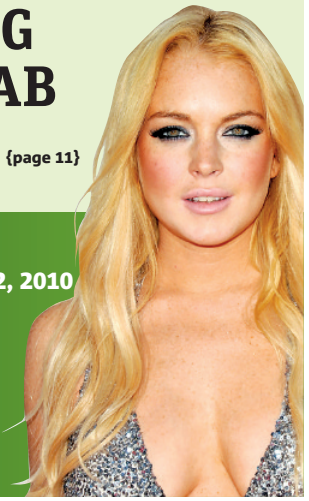
POLICE LOOKING INTO LILO REHAB INCIDENT DISH {page 11}



CALGARY metro®
Wednesday, December 22, 2010
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Mall. Frenzy

▶ Shoppers get in their last-minute shopping last night at Chinook Centre.

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO

Mall inundated with seasonal shoppers

With Christmas only days away, shoppers have been flooding the malls. This past Saturday, Chinook Centre had 72,000 shoppers pass through the doors — and officials at the mall are expecting a record-breaking turnout on Boxing Day. The rise in numbers is being attributed to the new expansion, which is now home to several living statues.

Catechism on condoms

Vatican says pope still doesn't support contraceptives {page 4}

Stuff research in your stocking

Paul Sullivan on the grinches who steal Christmas {page 7}

Man charged in child slayings

Accused to appear in court for weekend murders of two children ◐ Police decline to reveal relationship

A 31-year-old Edmonton man is scheduled to appear in court this morning facing two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of two young children.

The man was charged yesterday but has been in custody since police found him at a northeast townhouse late Sunday night.

Officers had been called to the home at 11:30 p.m. to check on the welfare of the two children but instead found the youngsters dead. The suspect was treated for minor injuries.

Alberta's Children and Youth Services minister, Yvonne Fritz, has confirmed that social workers had been involved in the care of the children, but declined to go into specifics except to say the children lived with their mother. Department spokesman John Tuckwell yesterday said there would be no further comment since the case is now a police matter.

Both children were under 10. Neighbours say they were of kindergarten age. Neither child can be identified under the privacy rules relating to children in government care.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Causes not disclosed

- Autopsies have been conducted, but the medical examiner has yet to reveal causes of the deaths.
- Mourners and family friends have been visiting the crime scene, some leaving teddy bears nearby.

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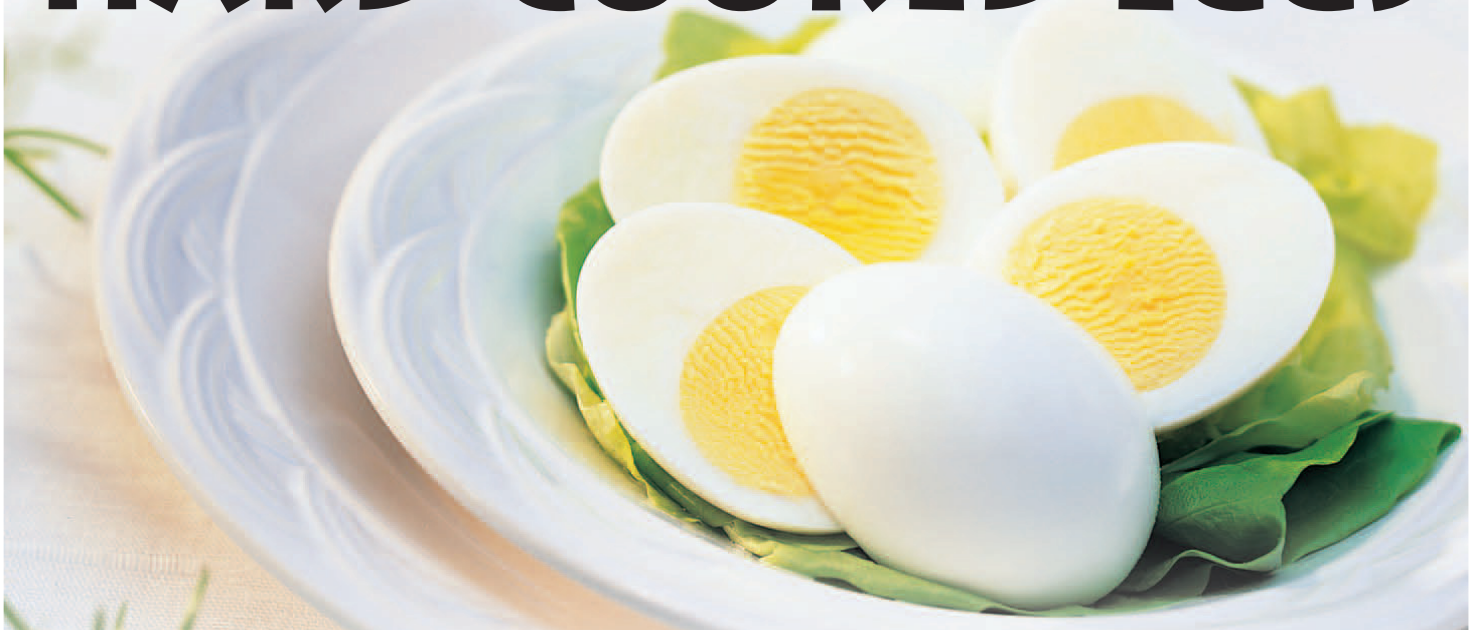

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Calls for more cops on LRT

A Calgary alderman has renewed calls for a police presence at LRT stations following an alleged sexual assault early Sunday.

Two 15-year-olds have been arrested and charged in connection with the incident, which is believed to have occurred around 3:40 a.m. at the Heritage LRT station.

Ward 8 Ald. John Mar, a former police officer who currently serves on the Calgary Police Commission, said he has been pushing for members of the Calgary Police Service to patrol the local LRT stations for three years.

Alleged assault

- The victim of the alleged sexual assault is a 19-year-old female who was sleeping at the station after a night of drinking with friends.
- The two suspects were arrested Sunday evening following a tip from the public.
- Another man at the station is believed to have been robbed by the suspects.

"There certainly is ample precedent in Canada as well as in North America for an open system like ours to have police officers rather than peace officers," he said.

"The public treats them differently, the authority is different and the training and tools are completely different."

Frequent transit user Sarah Roberts supports bolstering security at the LRT stations, but added that she has never had an issue when riding the train.

"I can stick up for myself, but it is scary when thinking about my younger friends that use it," she said.

Fellow transit user Hayle Dreher said improving security would definitely make her feel safer, noting she has been approached by some shady individuals at LRT stations in the past.

JEREMY NOLAIS

Parcel surprise a holiday problem

Some residents report gifts being weeks late or lost in transit

Calgary resident Mark Clarke arrived home from vacation to an unpleasant holiday surprise last weekend.

He says three boxes sent via Canada Post containing Christmas presents from family members in the Maritimes were left on the doorstep of his Royal Oak home. Clarke said the boxes were in plain view from the street and the total value of the gifts inside was more than $300

"There is a small walk up the side, but nonetheless anyone walking by could have seen three packages sitting there," he said.

Clarke said he found a thin layer of snow between two of the packages, leading him to believe a mail carrier had visited the house on more than one occasion.

Cover tracks

- Canada Post recommends people on vacation have a neighbour check their mail and shovel their driveway to make it appear as though someone is home.

Canada Post spokesperson Teresa Williams said carriers use their own discretion when delivering packages and are more likely to leave them in areas where theft is uncommon.

"If it cannot be seen from the street, it might be OK on a front porch," she said.

Clarke called Canada Post's rationale of the situation illogical and was unsure of whether he would rely on the organization for shipping in the future.

JEREMY NOLAIS

Holiday parcel problem? Wanna vent? Send message to calgaryletters @metronews.ca

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

▶ Canada Post worker Sharon Busby lugs some packages into the organization's northeast distribution centre.

Man wanted in year-old assault

Police are looking for a man connected to an assault last year in a Calgary jail.

On Dec. 2, 2009, a man was waiting in line for dinner at the Calgary Remand Centre when two men beat him up.

After an investigation was completed by the Serious Habitual Offender Program, police arrested a 21-year-old male. In February, they issued an arrest warrant for Jimmy Minh Nguyen of Calgary for aggravated assault. Police say they've been looking for him since but have been unable to make an arrest.

METRO

19 The age of Jimmy Minh Nguyen, who resides in Calgary but also has ties to Vancouver, according to police.

▶ Jimmy Minh Nguyen

News in brief

Wire damage slows LRT

CTRAIN. Commuters were left in the cold yesterday morning as they waited for transit workers to repair damage to the C-Train line. There were delays of around half an hour between Somerset and Crowfoot because of damage to the overhead electrical wire but the issue was fixed by 2:15 p.m.

Mom facing arson charge

BASHAW. A mother has been charged with attempted murder and arson following a fire at her family's home Monday. RCMP joined firefighters at the blaze at 6:30 a.m. to find that a father, mother and their two children made it out of the burning structure. METRO

1 news

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Part Seinfeld, part Chaplin, Kandahar's comedy king laughs in misery's face. Scan code for story.

Condom use still wrong: Vatican

Statement says comments were misunderstood Pope still opposes condoms for contraception

The Vatican yesterday sought to clarify the Pope's controversial comments about condoms and HIV, saying he by no means suggested condom use could be condoned as a means of avoiding pregnancy.

The Vatican's moral watchdog, the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, issued a statement saying some commentators had misrepresented the pope's remarks in a book-length interview released last month entitled Light of the World.

The Vatican statement stressed that Benedict was not talking about sex between husband and wife or condom use as a form of contraception.

His comments in Light of the World had signalled to many a shift in the Pope's thinking.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Comments

Reports of the Pope's comments had been greeted with relief among AIDS activists working on the front lines in Africa.

- Benedict said that condom use in some cases, such as for male prostitutes, could be a first step toward a more moral and responsible human sexuality.

Europe. Chaos

▶ Hundreds of people queue outside St Pancras Station in London for the Eurostar train to France yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/LEWIS WHYLD

Stranded in London

Major delays and cancellations persisted at European airports, leaving thousands stranded across Europe as Christmas approaches. Heathrow Airport told infuriated passengers it won't restore full service until tomorrow.

Orphan bear cubs have a new home

Two bear cubs whose mother was shot by a conservation officer in British Columbia's Okanagan region will be sent to a wildlife facility instead of being destroyed, thanks to efforts of local residents.

Sgt. Josh Lockwood, a conservation officer based in Vernon, says an emaciated, 40-kilogram female bear was found last week lying in a driveway in Falkland, about 100 kilometres north of Kelowna.

Lockwood says a conservation officer made the decision to put down the bear, and shot it.

A pair of 10-month-old cubs would have been shot, too, but Lockwood says local residents arranged to have them transferred to a site in the Lower Mainland.

Lockwood says the young animals will be cared for by the Critter Care Wildlife Society in Langley until the spring, when they are expected to be re-released in the Okanagan area.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Assange complains about leak

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is complaining that someone leaked a Swedish police report on his alleged sexual offences.

"The leak of the police report ... was clearly designed to undermine my bail application. It was timed to come up on the desk of the judge that morning," Assange said in an interview.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wanted

Swedish officials want to question Assange about allegations stemming from encounters with two women in Sweden. They accused him of rape, molestation and unlawful coercion. Assange has not been charged.

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Canada ranks high in cancer survival rates

- Study looked at four cancers, six countries
- Australia, Sweden also near top

A comparison of cancer survival rates in six developed countries puts Canada in the top three, alongside Australia and Sweden, and ahead of Norway, Denmark and the U.K.

The study, initiated in the United Kingdom and published online yesterday in The Lancet, examined survival rates for breast, lung, colorectal and ovarian cancer in 12 jurisdictions in the six countries.

"The main reason to look at these countries in relation to us is that they're countries of comparable wealth and very good quality information on cancer incidence, mortality and survival," said Terrence Sullivan, president and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario.

"The value for us is really to see how we're doing as a benchmark with the other jurisdictions."

Senior author Dr. Heather Bryant described the findings as good news for Canadians.

"What's been found is there really is a difference across the countries, and that Canada and Australia and Sweden really came out faring the best for five-year survival, which of course is very good news for cancer patients here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Data

The study involved data for 2.4 million adults diagnosed with primary cancer from 1995 to 2007. The four Canadian provinces that provided information were Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario.

Football. To politics

▶ Newly appointed senator and former CFL player Larry Smith announces his candidacy for the next federal election yesterday in Montreal, as Natural Resources Minister Christian Paradis looks on.

PAUL CHIASSONX/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senator announces next move

The Tories are hoping Senator Larry Smith can wrest the Montreal riding of Lac-Saint-Louis away from the Liberals and help them in their push for a majority government. Smith played for the CFL's Alouettes and had two spells as president of the team sandwiched around a stint as publisher of the Montreal Gazette.

Daughter bitter over scandals

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's daughter has said in a magazine interview that she feels bitter about the sex scandals that have engulfed her father. Barbara Berlusconi told the Italian editions of Vanity Fair that she believes the scandals have had an impact on her father's public as well as private life.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil adds women to cabinet

Brazil's first female president-elect has chosen at least eight women for her cabinet, saying she wants to give them a place in her administration commensurate with their contributions to society.

President-elect Dilma Rousseff has filled 30 of 34 positions. She takes office Jan. 1.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Nothing to hide,' says Kosovo PM

Kosovo's prime minister said yesterday he wants an independent investigation to "dispel the mist" surrounding allegations he led a gang that murdered detainees to sell their kidneys.

Hashim Thaci told The Associated Press in an interview he has "nothing to hide."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sears

Pace of inflation moderates

November reversed trend of rising inflation established since July

The pace of inflation in Canada eased to an annual rate of two per cent last month as the prices of most consumer goods either saw a moderation in growth or outright declines from last year.

After a surprising spurt in October to an annualized rate of 2.4 per cent, inflation as measured by the consumer price index now appears headed back to moderate levels.

And November's figures from Statistics Canada also likely eliminated whatever concern Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney might have had that keeping interest rates at such historic lows much longer would trigger a sharp rise in prices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

November rates

(previous month in brackets)

- Newfoundland and Labrador **2.2** (3.0)
- Prince Edward Island **1.2** (2.3)
- Nova Scotia **2.2** (2.9)
- New Brunswick **1.4** (1.8)
- Quebec **1.1** (1.4)
- Ontario **3.0** (3.4)
- Manitoba **1.1** (1.2)
- Saskatchewan **2.0** (2.1)
- Alberta **0.1** (1.2)
- British Columbia **2.2** (2.4)

Skin. A-ma-rink

▶ Victoria Eisermann, a campaigner from PETA, is chased by Ice rink security as she demonstrates as a nearly naked fox in London, yesterday.

KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP PHOTO

PETA fox bares skin

Demonstrators took to the ice rink to highlight their campaign against wearing animal skins. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) argues that the fur trade business causes unnecessary suffering to animals.

Monitoring of oilsands slammed

A high-level advisory panel has told Ottawa and Alberta to put politics aside and set up a world-class environmental monitoring system for the Alberta oilsands.

But within hours of the release of the panel's report urging the two governments to iron out their jurisdictional issues, there were already signs of federal-provincial friction.

In Ottawa, federal Environment Minister John Baird said he would start implementing the panel's recommendations immediately. But in Edmonton, Premier Ed Stelmach suggested Alberta should take the lead. Indeed, his provincial environment minister launched a separate revamping of the monitoring system just this week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"There is clearly a lack of leadership and co-ordination"
ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL, OIL SANDS ADVISORY PANEL CHAIR

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

DOLLAR	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft	OIL	TSX
– 0.11¢ (98.28¢ US)	$4.059 (– 17.8¢) Gold contracts $1,388.80 (+ $2.70)	+ 45¢ US ($89.82 US)	+ 171.87 (13,365.15)

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STUFF THIS RESEARCH IN A STOCKING

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

'Tis a few days before Christmas and the Grinch is on the prowl.

Turns out the Grinch is a team at Simon Fraser University that has published the following anti-Christmas research: "Identity moderates the effects of Christmas displays on mood, self-esteem, and inclusion."

According to the professors and their grad student Grinch accomplices, their research shows that "the pervasive presence of Christmas displays in December makes people who do not celebrate Christmas feel like they don't belong, and it harms their emotional well-being."

For those of us struggling to breathe under a seasonal avalanche of Bing Crosby, this is nothing new, but the closer you look at the actual experiment, the more you have to ask: Don't these guys have anything better to do?

Here's what they did — they put one group of students in a lab decorated with a 12-inch Christmas tree and another group in a lab with no tree. Then they asked them how they felt.

Subjects didn't know they were in a study on the psychological effects of Christmas trees, but were asked to fill out a questionnaire about their mood.

Moods varied depending on the presence of the tree and the background of the respondents. In the presence of the tree, Sikh and Buddhist respondents felt less sure about themselves and felt excluded from the university. Christian students reported a more positive mood.

Putting aside questions about the research (maybe 12-inch plastic trees are culturally depressing. Maybe Sikh and Buddhist students require much bigger trees to feel good?), this just encourages the brand of self-righteousness that blights the yuletide season annually.

Some killjoy kicks Christmas out of the mall in case someone might feel excluded.

And now they've got research to back them up. "Studies show …" they'll proclaim, ignoring the fact it's one study and one tree.

I wonder what would happen if the team put its subjects through the Halloween test. Or the Thanksgiving test.

At some level, they're all religious festivals, but they are also festivals.

I'm in favour of festivals. Thanks to multiculturalism, we keep adding them to the calendar: Hanukkah; Kwanzaa; Diwali; Narooz. If we keep this up, we can have a parade every day of the year. And how good is that?

The point is to use festivals to include people, not exclude them. We all believe different things, but if there's one belief that unites us all, it's simply this: Festivals are fun.

So, without prejudice, I offer the following greeting: Merry Christmas! (And happy holidays to everyone, even professors).

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Your Christmas forecast

Worth mentioning

Canadians dreaming of a white Christmas will likely get their wish, unless they live in the Maritimes or British Columbia.

Environment Canada senior climatologist David Phillips says much of the country will be wrapped in a white blanket on Christmas morning.

It could be the whitest Christmas ever in London and Sarnia, Ont.

London already has 48 centimetres while the Sarnia area was socked with 30-40 centimetres last week that stranded hundreds of motorists on Highway 402.

With nine centimetres on the ground and more on the way, Ottawa and Montreal are guaranteed a white Christmas.

Snow on the ground and below normal temperatures mean the Prairies already have their white Christmas in the bag, said Phillips.

There's just no chance for a white Christmas in Fredericton, Moncton, Halifax, Sydney, Charlottetown, St. John's, and Corner Brook, N.L., said Phillips.

Vancouver won't have a white Christmas, but there's only been an 11 per cent chance over 55 years that the city has one anyway, said Phillips. In Victoria and along the B.C. coast, there's little chance, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fun in the snow

MIKE HEWITT/GETTY IMAGES

Is a white Christmas important to you?

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Metro Minute with Living Statues

As busy holiday shoppers rush all around them, 10 seasoned performers have remained perfectly still at the Chinook Centre for nearly a month. The Living Statues performing group has been spread out at eight different locations around the mall and enchanted many mall-goers with its elaborate, holiday-themed costumes. Those still wanting to catch a glimpse of the performers can do so right up until Christmas Eve, as the group takes the stage every day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and again from 4-8 p.m. today and tomorrow. If you stare at the statues long enough, you might even see one move. For more information, visit chinookcentre.com. METRO

CONTRIBUTED

▶ The Living Statues performing group will be at the Chinook Centre through to Christmas Eve.

2 scene

Scene in brief

30 Rock star Tracy Morgan is recovering from a kidney transplant.

A statement released Monday by Morgan's publicist says Morgan is doing well and taking much-needed time to recover from the surgery earlier this month.

The statement says the actor-comedian looks forward to returning to work on the New York-based NBC TV comedy after the holidays.

The 42-year-old Morgan plays the goofy star of a TV show on 30 Rock. Another 30 Rock cast member, Grizz Chapman, also received a new kidney earlier this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hustling Miami video director earns praise

Movie review See it twice ●●●●● | See it now ●●●●○ | Worth watching ●●●○○ | Yawn ●●○○○ | Don't bother ●○○○○

Coens do justice to True Grit

True Grit
Genre: Western
Directors: Ethan Coen, Joel Coen
Stars: Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon and Hailee Steinfeld
●●●●½

Perhaps only artists as visionary and celebrated as The Coen Brothers would dare remake a film as beloved as True Grit and not be met with a tsunami of bile. The original 1969 picture (itself just re-released on Blu ray) starred John Wayne in the role that won him a much belated Oscar and was perhaps the last gasp of the classic, Ford/Hawks steeped mythic American western before the ultra-violent influence of the Italian "spaghetti western" consumed the genre.

Wisely, the Coen's have decided not to reproduce or "reinvent" it but rather go back to the source on which it was based, Charles Portis's novel. The resulting picture is nothing short of a joy to behold.

This time, instead of The Duke we have Jeff Bridges at his craggy, curmudgeonly best as lone wolf Marshall Rueben "Rooster" Cogburn, who when he's not defending his latest righteous kill in a court of law, sleeps his booze soaked self away in a cot behind a Chinese restaurant.

Into his sagebrush dusted life comes 14 year old Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld), who secures Cogburn to hunt the villain that killed her father and bring 'em back alive. Also adhered to their adventure is the preening, over-his-head Ranger LeBoef (Matt Damon) who also wants to get his mitts on the same murderer so he can hang him for his crimes in Texas.

That's pretty much the story but narrative contrivance isn't what makes True Grit such a heart swelling, eye filling delight. It's a mixture of spot-on, giddy performances both lead and supporting; the delicate, lonely but never oppressive cinematography by Roger Deakins; Carter Burwell's aching and melancholy score that uses the hymn Leaning on the Everlasting Arms and most importantly, it's The Coen's ace direction, milking mirth and rugged poetry out of every second of screen time. A gentle, rambling treasure of a film. ● CHRIS ALEXANDER

Little Fockers
Genre: Comedy
Director: Paul Weitz
Stars: Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro, Owen Wilson
●○○○○

A once mildly amusing comedy is now an insufferable franchise brought to new lows with Little Fockers. Not since It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World have so many stars combined forces to create easily the worst film of their careers.

Once again an anxious Ben Stiller is put at odds his former CIA father in-law Robert De Niro, who now hopes that Stiller can take over the family patriarchal reigns as The Godfocker, but is concerned that he's having an affair with a cute little drug rep named Andi Garcia (Jessica Alba). Those two terrible puns represent the best jokes in the movie and are repeated ad nauseam to ensure that you won't find them funny by the end credits.

The Fockers (Barbara Streisand and Dustin Hoffman) pop up on the sidelines hosting a sex chat show and learning flamingo moves in Spain respectively, while Owen Wilson returns as a wealthy family friend with eyes for Stiller's wife. All the subplots and characters kind of connect in a climax, but the hastily constructed screenplay is too haphazard to form anything resembling a narrative. This isn't a movie. It's a Fucking disgrace. ● PHIL BROWN

The King's Speech
Genre: Drama
Director: Tom Hooper
Stars: Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush
●●●●●

You can't make this stuff up, this engaging, period bro-mance between the soon-to-be King George VI (Colin Firth) and a commoner (Geoffrey Rush) who is a speech therapist on the eve of the Second World War. But apparently it happened. The Duke of York, the second son of the late King George V, was saddled with a career threatening stammer that might not have mattered if the radio not just been invented or if his brother Edward hadn't just abdicated the throne to marry Wallis Simpson, thrusting him into the top job. Now he is expected to address a nation on the verge of war. Both rollicking fun and a nail-biter.

● ANNE BRODIE

THIS PAGE COVERS MOVIE START TIMES FROM WED., DEC. 22 TO THURS., DEC. 23. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

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True Grit (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:10-4-7:05-9:45

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Little Fockers (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-3-7-9:30

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388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

The King's Speech (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:35
Little Fockers (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:50-1:20-3:20-3:50-6:45-7:15-9:15-9:45
True Grit (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:40-3:40-7:05-9:55

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

Little Fockers (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1-4:15-7:25-10:10
True Grit (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12-3:20-6:30-9:30

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

True Grit (14A) Wed-Thu 3:30-7:15-9:30

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

The King's Speech (PG) Wed-Thu 1:20-4:25-7:30-10:30
Little Fockers (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:10-1-3:15-4:20-6:50-7:20-9:50-10:30
True Grit (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:05-10:15

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

Little Fockers (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-12:45-2:50-3:25-6:55-7:20-9:40-10
True Grit (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:40-3:35-7:10-10:05

WESTHILLS 10
165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

Little Fockers (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:25-9:55
True Grit (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-3:10-7:45-10:25

Spider Man actor falls 30 feet on Broadway musical set

The troubled Broadway musical Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark was plagued by its fourth accident since it began previews last month when an actor performing an aerial stunt fell about 30 feet, fire officials said.

Firefighters were called to the Foxwoods Theatre in New York at about 10:45 p.m. Monday after the 31-year-old actor fell near the end of the latest preview performance.

He was taken to Bellevue Hospital with minor injuries, police said.

Police did not release the actor's name, but a performer in the show identified him as Christopher Tierney.

The performer spoke on condition of anonymity because the performer was not authorized to speak publicly about the accident.

A nurse at Bellevue Hospital said that a Christopher Tierney was admitted and was in stable condition, but would not provide details.

"Please pray with me for my friend Chris, my superhero who quietly inspires me everyday."
NATALIE MENDOZA, ACTRESS

Actress Natalie Mendoza, who plays Spider-Man's evil love interest Arachne was injured during the show's first preview last month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KATHY WILLENS/ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

▶ A Spider-Man banner covering the front of Foxwoods Theater in New York.

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TODD PLITT/ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO, DISCOVERY CHANNEL

▶ Ben Bailey, host of the mobile game show, Cash Cab, stands next to a cab.

Cash Cab heads to Chicago

A game show on four wheels that is able to compete creatively with longtime studio favourites Jeopardy! and Wheel of Fortune

The Discovery Network show that turns a New York City cab ride into an instant game show is launching a spinoff version based in Chicago next spring. Comic Beth Melewski, a Second City cast member, will be behind the wheel.

The expansion comes after a triumphant year for Cash Cab. The series, itself a remake of a British TV's similar game based in London, won its second Daytime Emmy award for best game show. Ben Bailey won his first Emmy as best host.

The idea for the Chicago version came when Bailey did a handful of tapings in Las Vegas, some that included entertainers such as Carrot Top playing for charity, and Discovery recognized how a new city with new people and new sites could give Cash Cab an entirely different feel, said Clark Bunting, Discovery's CEO.

"It's everything that people thought it would be. It's a validation and credit for hard work."
BEN BAILEY, CASH CAB

Bunting is from Michigan, and he wanted to get the Midwest involved. Chicago, a city similar to New York with many cabs, seemed like it could work in a way that Los Angeles, for example, couldn't since there's relatively little cab use.

Melewski had the combination of smarts and knowledge of her city to work well in the cab, he said.

"Beth feels real-deal Chicago," he said. "You've got to have, for these shows at least, a feel for the city."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Lindsay under investigation

Lohan has been undergoing treatment at the Betty Ford Center and its facilities since September

Lindsay Lohan is under investigation for an alleged misdemeanour battery against a female staffer at a rehab facility where the actress is receiving treatment, authorities said yesterday.

Riverside County sheriff's Deputy Herlinda Valenzuela said officers responded to a Betty Ford Center facility in Palm Desert on Dec. 12 shortly after 1 a.m. for an incident involving Lohan.

Valenzuela says a female staffer reported having a dispute with the Mean Girls star and that she wanted to pursue charges. No arrests were made and Valenzuela says detectives continue to look into the case.

Their results will be presented to Riverside County prosecutors, who will decide whether to file a criminal case, Valenzuela said.

Messages for Lohan's attorney were not immediately returned.

An email message seeking comment from a Betty Ford spokesman was not immediately returned, although the facility does not comment on its patients. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Lindsay Lohan

Are Miller, Law set to tie the knot?

Jude Law and Sienna Miller are reportedly so happy together that the previously engaged couple are talking marriage — and maybe as soon as within the next two weeks.

Miller's sister, Savannah Miller confirms to the Daily Mail that the couple have been talking marriage recently, while another source says they may even tie the knot over New Year's in a quiet ceremony.

The pair were previously engaged in 2005 before his cheating scandal forced Sienna to call it off. METRO

Merry Christmas from Simon Cowell

Simon Cowell may not quite understand the Christmas spirit.

British X-Factor judge Louis Walsh reveals that Cowell got all the show's judges the same gift this year: A massive Botox gift certificate.

"On the final he says, 'I've got a present for you three,' and he gives us envelopes," Walsh tells Sharon Osbourne during a TV interview. "I got home and opened (it) — it's ($4,500) worth of Botox." Walsh says all three judges got the exact same thing. METRO

News in brief

Franco hates doing what he's told

OSCARS. James Franco has a simple reason for why he's co-hosting the Oscars this year with Anne Hathaway: His agents told him not to. "All my representatives were saying, 'No! Of course not!'" Franco tells Entertainment Weekly. "That always sparks something in me. So I said, 'Yes, of course!' Because that reaction that they have is based on conventional wisdom of what makes a good career. And that can be boring — really boring." METRO

Vaughn, wife welcome baby

BIRTH. Vince Vaughn and wife Kyla welcomed their first child, a girl, earlier this week, Hollyscoop reports. Locklyn Kyla Vaughn came in at seven pounds. "Both of them couldn't be happier to welcome their sweet little girl into their family," a family friend says. METRO

3 life

Travel in brief

A new Disney resort will open in phases, starting in May 2012.

Officials said Disney's Art of Animation Resort will add about 800 permanent jobs to the Orlando economy. That's on top of the roughly 800 construction jobs the project will require.

The hotel will feature about 2,000 rooms, including 865 standard hotel rooms in Disney's "value" category. Another 1,120 will be suites.

Disney officials cite the demand for affordable suites as extended families often travel together to Disney World.

The first phase of the hotel will be a Finding Nemo-themed wing of suites. A wing of suites in the Lion King theme will follow. The final phase of conventional hotel rooms featuring the Little Mermaid theme is scheduled to open by December 2012.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Investors wanting to build replica of Noah's Ark get preliminary approval for tax breaks.

KEVIN HUTCHINSON

▶ If you're looking for private beaches surrounded by gorgeous scenery, get away from the big resorts and try Mexico's smaller towns.

Small-town Mexico

Southeast of Acapulco, Huatulco is uncluttered and uncrowded This burgeoning resort town is close to no less than 36 untouched beaches

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

If you're tired of all those massive Mexican resort towns away from the popular bars and beaches, then small-town Huatulco might just be the perfect place for you.

This burgeoning West Coast resort area southeast of Acapulco is being built from the ground up by the Mexican government, with only about 15 luxury resort hotels surrounded by nine small bays.

That lack of clutter makes for no less than 36 stunning, private, untouched beaches, all around gorgeous scenery you can't find in many Mexican resort towns anymore. Of course, the surrounding natural habitat is all the more wild and untouched, making for some unique adventures.

Finding myself a few hours north of the coast, I felt like I was in the middle of the Amazon. During a gondola ride on secluded La Ventanilla Lagoon, the iguanas, turtles and tropical birds were plentiful, and so were 10-foot-plus crocodiles nudging by our little wooden vessel.

The area is also home to the Mexican turtle centre, where baby sea turtles are hatched and released regularly.

Another hidden treasure worth visiting lies tucked away in the mountains about two hours away from the coast.

The so-called Magic Water Falls are not only beautiful, but legend has it if you bathe in these remote mystical waters, they will magically erase wrinkles and instantly restore a youthful appearance.

FLICKR: WYTZE

▶ Huatulco is surrounded by nine small bays.

If you want to beat the crowds to this obscure paradise, better do it soon. Over the next decade, there are plans to add 10 times the number of hotel rooms to accommodate two million tourists a year.

What to do

- **Visit the Tipsy Blowfish.** Located in quiet La Crucecita, this is one of the funkiest bars in all of Mexico. Take in great live music and easygoing small-town culture in a funky outdoor environment. Be sure to ask owner Texas Joe for some of the coldest beer in town.
- **Go on a Mexican Outback Safari.** One of the newest attractions in Huatulco, this eco-adventure takes you to the heart of the tropical jungle and into far-removed villages. You'll cross mangroves and taste tropical fruit, and cap it off with some snorkelling in the remote fishing village of San Augustin.

Top travel reads for women

JOURNEY WOMAN

EVELYN HANNON
JOURNEYWOMAN.COM

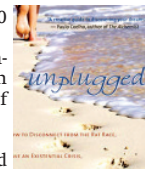
For Christmas, Hanukkah or a special birthday I generally choose travel books as gifts for my best female friends.

Whether they're an eco-adventuress or a gal that prefers armchair travel, I can always find something special.

Amare: A True Italian Love Story, by Sheila Wright
Amare is a magical memoir of an odyssey that began as a trip around the world and transformed into an unforgettable journey into the heart and soul of southern Italy.

Pampered in Paris: A Guide to the Best Spas, Salons and Beauty Boutiques, by Kim Horton Levesque
Where do chic and savvy Parisians go to pamper and indulge themselves? The culture of well-being and beauty thrives in Paris, not only at the institutes of internationally known product brands, but in the hands of individual practitioners who work in more unassuming settings.

Unplugged, by Nancy Whitney-Reiter
The author of this book survived the attacks of 9/11, left her job at a Fortune 500 company and embarked on a year of international travel and soul searching.



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ISTOCK

▶ Some people love not knowing where they're going.

Putting the mystery into vacations

A mystery vacation isn't for everyone. While some laud it as an adventure free from the hassles of trip planning, others say it's unnerving giving up so much control.

Blindfolded and 2,400 kilometres from home, 70-year-old Paul White was being driven along a twisting mountain road to an unknown destination.

No, it wasn't a kidnapping, or even a mystery novel. It was a mystery vacation. From the moment White left his house in East Sandwich, Mass., until well into the 15-day vacation his wife spent two years planning, he didn't know where he'd be going or what he'd be doing.

The same thing happened to Heather and Brian Cornwell of Jacksonville, Fla., after her father arranged a 10-day "scavenger hunt" vacation as a wedding gift. Ditto for the hundreds of women who have travelled with Pink Bus Mystery Tours out of Fargo, N.D.

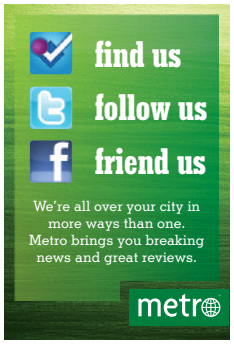
While a mystery vacation isn't for everyone, White is one of those who love it. His wife, Karin, organizes their mystery getaways, which have lasted from a day to two weeks. She has whisked him off to England, Mexico, Maine, Rhode Island and, most recently, Colorado, Arizona and Utah. She tells him in advance how long they'll be gone, then does the rest, including packing.

But not everyone loves that feeling. Lynnette Cashman said she felt "a little out of sync" during a 30th-anniversary surprise planned by her husband, who normally leaves travel arrangements to her. She knew something was up two months ago when she saw credit card charges for a four-day trip to St. John's, in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Although she appreciated her husband's efforts, thought St. John's was beautiful and the trip relaxing, she said she felt "annoyed at times" and "detached" at others.

Still, others are so intrigued by mystery tours, they sign up for them on their own. Women pay $200 for a four-person room and an unknown adventure with Pink Bus Mystery Tours from Saturday morning until Sunday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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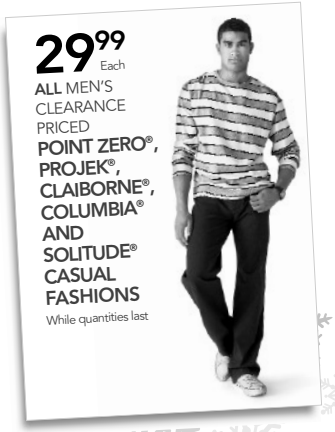

Sears
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Bunches of punches for your holiday parties

Whether light and fizzy or dense and decadent, non-alcoholic or spiked, there's a punch recipe to complement every soirée this season

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Pear Tree Punch features a flamed orange garnish for a special twist.

Following the adage that everything old is new again, the hot trend in party drinks this holiday is punch, served in, you guessed it, a punch bowl.

Various sources say punch was introduced to England from India in the early 17th century and then it spread to other countries. The word punch is said to be derived from the Hindustan word "panch," which means "five." This can be traced back to the "rule of five" stating that a punch must have at least five ingredients.

"These must be something sweet, sour, strong, weak and the addition of spices," explains Christopher Freeland, spokesperson for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

Tanya Steel, editor-in-chief of Epicurious, says the resurgence of punch may also be a harbinger of the times.

"I think punches are a big beverage trend this holiday season because they are festive to look at and imbibe and it enables the host to stretch a little liquor a long way," she said.

Freeland points out that punch "can be a great time saver for the host as it can be made up in advance."

"It also allows the ingredients to marry for a number of hours, giving it more flavour," he says.

Steel says the other advantage to punch is that it can be non-alcoholic or can contain some alcohol.

"And when you are adding alcohol you don't have to use the most expensive because it will be enhanced by all those different ingredients and flavours."

She says that one great thing about punch is that the host can make it very light and "that goes well with a heavier buffet."

"Or you can make it more of the main event and complement it with foods like cookies or tarts, so think of it as part of the menu." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stir things up

Here are some tips on preparing punch:

- Estimate the number of servings you will need. Generally punch is served in 125-ml (4-oz) round cups or glasses. Plan for three to four servings per guest.
- Use quality ingredients.
- If garnishing with fruit don't overload the bowl.
- Have as many of the ingredients chilled before beginning to make punch.
- Offer guests a non-alcoholic version of a punch that contains alcohol. The two bowls should be separated and clearly identified.

Source: thatsthespirit.com

Pear Tree Punch

Ingredients :
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) single malt Scotch
- 10 dashes orange bitters or regular bitters
- 750 ml (3 cups) pear juice
- Flamed orange zest, for garnish

Preparation:

1. In a pitcher, place all ingredients and stir to mix. Pour into punch bowl holding ice.
2. To flame an orange zest: Using a sharp knife, cut an oval tab of zest about one by three inches.
3. With the skin pointing outward bend the oval toward the flame of a lighter over the drink. The flame should ignite the oils which will squirt from the zest. Add the flamed orange peel.

Ginger Pineapple Punch

Ingredients :

Ginger syrup:
- 375 ml (1 /2 cups) water
- 250 ml (1 cup) sugar
- 250 ml (1 cup) thinly sliced fresh ginger (125 g/1/4 lb from two 12-cm/5-inch pieces)

Punch:
- 750 ml (3 cups) unsweetened pineapple juice, chilled
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) fresh lemon juice (3 to 5 lemons)
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) fresh lime juice (4 to 6 limes)
- 750 ml (3 cups) sparkling water, chilled
- 1 l (4 cups) ice cubes
- Lemon/lime slices for garnish

Note: A splash of vodka or gin transforms this lively punch into a festive cocktail.

Preparation:

1. To make ginger syrup: In a 1- to 1.5-l saucepan, bring water, sugar and ginger to a boil , stirring until sugar is dissolved.
2. Simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes, then remove from heat and steep uncovered for 15 minutes.
3. Pour syrup through a sieve into a bowl, discarding ginger. Cover and chill until cold, about 2 hours.
4. To make punch: In a punch bowl or pitcher, stir together ginger syrup and fruit juices. Stir in sparkling water and ice.

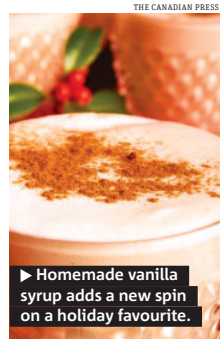
Nod to Nog

Ingredients :
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) Canadian whisky
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) vanilla syrup (see step 1)
- 750 ml (3 cups) cream
- 8 egg whites
- Nutmeg, for garnish

Preparation:

1. To make vanilla syrup, add equal parts sugar and boiling water to a heatproof vessel, stir to dissolve and let cool. Add 2 to 3 drops of vanilla extract or 1/4 vanilla bean. Stir to mix.
2. Combine ingredients with blender and add to a punch bowl. Keep chilled.
3. Garnish each serving with a pinch of nutmeg.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Homemade vanilla syrup adds a new spin on a holiday favourite.

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ISTOCK IMAGES

▶ If a release form is folded up with your pink slip, sign it only after the proper persons have been consulted.

One individual's experience, told here, provides an example of why you should be careful when you call the Ministry of Labour.

Following his termination, Scott Seltzer was given a termination package consisting of a three-week severance payment required by legislation and an offer for an additional payment in exchange for signing a release.

Instead of calling a lawyer, Seltzer called the B.C. Ministry of Labour for advice. Seltzer was told that in B.C. a worker "could not sign their legal rights away," which is technically correct but practically misleading. Each province has legislation that sets out minimum severance. Here, Seltzer was entitled to a minimum payment of three weeks' salary. However, since Seltzer was entitled to more than just the minimum, his employer asked him to sign a release for the additional payments — which is an agreement not to later sue. Although this was an issue that most employment lawyers would spot as a matter of course, the Ministry representative failed to clarify the distinction.

Relying on what he was told, Seltzer mistakenly thought he had nothing to lose by signing the release, believing he could take the extra money and then challenge his employer for more. However, when he later made a human rights complaint, his claim was dismissed at a preliminary hearing because of the release he had signed. Why did this happen and how could it be avoided?

Most provincial employment ministries in Canada have hotlines for employees to call to obtain "information" about their rights. The problem is that this information is often construed as "advice," since advice is often inappropriately dispensed by the ministry representatives who answer the phone. And, since most people will believe, even if incorrectly, that they received advice from a government body, they are unlikely to later pay for a lawyer's time to obtain a second opinion.

This example is not an exception. The ministry representatives should explain only what the legislation says and how it was interpreted in the past. There is no mandate to provide recommendations, or worse, to provide advice.

Yet it happens anyway when some of the representatives habitually blur this distinction. When they do, the public's interests may be subverted.

Does my job bring me joy?

DREW HINSHAW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

As the stressful season of year-end deadlines and pre-Christmas chaos boils down to a cozy yuletide break, there's no more fitting a moment, career counselors say, to take a pause by the fireside and reflect on whether or not your daily work is meaningful.

"A rare few people have a real career plan, some people have a vague idea of what they should do, and most people have no formal goals," Executive Coach Jane Cranston says. "It's when they get into their mid-30s that they start asking 'where am I?'"

Better to start contemplating your life goals, she says, on December 30th than your 30th December.

That's true not just because the solstice has a magic for forcing normally rushed professionals to peer backwards at the years gone by – but because the winter months happen to be the prime time window to execute a career swap.

"Believe it or not, December, January and the first half of February are counter-intuitively, the best time to find a new job," Fearless Career Change author Marky Stein notes.

But they're also pretty good months to find the joy in your old job.

Start by using the holiday time, Stein recommends, to ask yourself what's right about your job, moving from basic questions – Does your boss respect you? Do your coworkers understand you? – towards more core considerations, like "Am I proud of what I do?" she suggests.

"Finally, there's the big existential question of 'Would I like to be remembered after my retirement or death as doing the position I am now doing and doing it well?" she offers. "People have to honestly face that question at one point or another."

A career counselor can help break down that daunting dilemma into a mere challenge.

"We help people set and attain goals," Cranston says. "The evidence is that most people attain more, faster when they have a coach."

ISTOCK IMAGES

▶ Once the eggnog has run out and the carols have been sung, it's time to ask yourself if you really want to go back to work.

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Reaching high to score a dream

Ezra Frech won't let a disability stop him from becoming a sporting legend – just like his hero Pau Gasol

ELISABETH BRAW
METRO WORLD NEWS

Ezra Frech and Pau Gasol frequently get together to play basketball, and have plenty of fun doing it. That's somewhat surprising, given that Ezra is a four-year-old with a prosthetic leg, and Gasol is a basketball star — the NBA's best power-forward, to be precise.

But Gasol is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and has made it his mission in life to help children in his adopted hometown of Los Angeles, where he plays for the Los Angeles Lakers. Sometimes he helps the Los Angeles Fire Department teach children about fire safety, sometimes he visits children in the hospital, and sometimes he plays basketball with Ezra.

The duo spoke with Metro — Ezra about his dreams for the future, and Gasol about his own aspirations he had as a child.

When I grow up:
Frech: I want to be a basketball player for the Los Angeles Lakers. And after that, I want to be a coach. My prosthetic legs work great. In my spare time, I want to be a UNICEF Ambassador like Pau Gasol.
Gasol: It was a dream to become a basketball player, but I was also interested in other things, like science and music. If I hadn't become a basketball player, I would have become a scientist or doctor.

My family will consist of:
Frech: I will marry my beautiful girlfriend Sophia, who I met on the blue playground. We will have three boys and two girls and a golden retriever.
Gasol: I'm a family guy, so I always wanted to have several children, three or so, and a wife. The biggest privilege of my career is that I can serve as a role model for children and inspire them.

I will live in:
Frech: I will live four blocks from Staples Center where the Lakers play. And I will drive a car that turns into a helicopter.

AARON LUCY

▶ Ezra Frech gets a little help from his basketball star buddy.

Gasol: I didn't know any place outside of Spain. I wanted to grow up and become famous in my hometown.

My hobbies will be:
Frech: Surfing and playing soccer.
Gasol: I played the piano as a child and still do. I have a piano at home. I play music by the usual classical composers, but right now I have a book of French folk songs I love to play from.

When I was little I saw my first opera, Tosca, and it's still my very favourite opera.

4 sports

Flames can't find offence in Columbus

Calgary scored just 3 times in last 3 games ◆ Can't solve Jackets' Garon

Now that the Columbus Blue Jackets have seemingly solved their goaltending issues, they just have to take care of scoring.

Mathieu Garon made 29 saves in his debut as the Blue Jackets' No. 1 goalie, and Columbus snapped a four-game losing streak by beating the Calgary Flames 3-1 last night.

Jared Boll and Rostislav Klesla also scored for Columbus, which had only two wins in 12 games.

Olli Jokinen had the lone goal for Calgary, which lost its third straight.

Rookie Henrik Karlsson made 34 stops in his seventh outing of the season for the Flames, who have the worst road record in the Western Conference (5-11-3). Calgary has dropped five consecutive games and nine of 11 on the road.

"Karlsson played well," Flames coach Brent Sutter said. "When you score just one goal, that makes it tough. We had some chances and some opportunities and didn't capitalize on them."

Voracek scored his sixth at 5:14 of the first. He curled off the half boards, skated past two defenders on his way to the high slot, and wristed a shot past Karlsson's glove hand. The goal was Voracek's first in 13 games.

The Flames nearly got on the board early in the second period, but Garon got just enough of Curtis Glenncross' slap shot to deflect it off the post.

Garon, a 10-year NHL veteran who won the Stanley Cup with Pittsburgh in 2009, was square to shooters and controlled his rebounds. His goals-against average and save percentage have dropped near the bottom of the league.

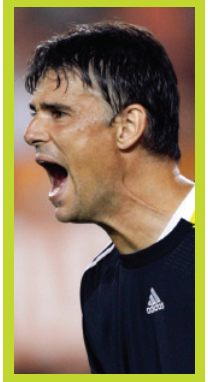
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKETS	FLAMES
3	1

JAY LAPRETE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Henrik Karlsson makes a save as Kyle Wilson and Tom Sestito wait for a rebound.

Quoted



"When I look back at the MLS stage of my career, I'm pretty proud of what I accomplished from the age of 35 on. I worked hard for that."

PAT ONSTAD, THE STAR CANADIAN GOALKEEPER WHO ANNOUNCED HE WAS RETIRING FROM THE HOUSTON DYNAMO AT THE AGE OF 42 TO BECOME AN ASSISTANT COACH WITH D.C. UNITED. HE LEAVES WITH THREE MLS CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TWO MLS GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARDS DESPITE NOT JOINING THE LEAGUE UNTIL HE WAS 35.

Scan code for more sports

Opinion

BRIAN COSTELLO
THE HOCKEY NEWS

IT'S TIME FOR FLAMES TO TEAR IT DOWN

The shortest day of the year is also the darkest day of the season for the Calgary Flames. Losing a home and home series to the Minnesota Wild is a dagger in the heart of Calgary's playoff hopes.

The Wild are one of five teams the Flames were hoping to pass in order to finish in the top eight of the conference and even though Calgary deserved a much better fate than two L's, let's be realistic here. The team just isn't good enough and is in need of a dismantle.

First the facts. It's going to take any team at least 94 points to make the playoffs in the West. The West is so much better and more competitive than the East, it might take 95, 96 or 97 points to nail down eighth place or better. For the Flames to reach 94 points, they need 63 points in their final 48 games. That's something like 30-15-3, a pace only four or five teams are playing at this season.

So when mid-January rolls around and the Flames need something like 50 points in the final 35 games — or a fabulous 24-9-2 finish — the decision should be made to let GM Darryl Sutter trade off marketable assets or dismiss Sutter and empower assistant GM Jay Feaster to start the rebuild.

The most marketable asset is of course Jarome Iginla and he would fetch much in return at the trade deadline, a first round pick, a top prospect and a promising young NHLer from a contending team.

Next on Calgary's tradable list should be defenceman Robyn Regehr. The 30-year-old is weathered beyond his years and is signed for $4 million each of the next two seasons. While still a solid defender and respected dressing room leader, Regehr's game has slipped the past two seasons and is prone to being beat wide and with speed. He's certainly worth a young prospect and first round pick from a contender not picking in the top 20.

The Flames have a number of players due to become unrestricted free agents in the off-season they should consider trading. Even though Alex Tanguay, Brendan Morrison and Curtis Glencross have filled important roles this season, they're going to want raises in the off-season and are bound to sign elsewhere. Securing second and third-round draft picks in return is a good way to build up assets in a depleted organization.

Same goes for pending UFAs Steve Staois, Anton Babchuk and Adam Pardy. Even fourth and fifth round picks can be parlayed into prospects.

The corollory effects of trading away three or four or five Flames before the trade deadline is it opens up cap space on the books for future seasons and it means a projected bottom 10 finish in the NHL this season turns into a bottom five finish.

And moving up that much higher in the draft is invaluable for a team in need of a major facelift.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	35	22	8	2	3	117	87	49	12-6-0-2	10-2-2-1	7-2-0-1	L1
d-Washington	36	20	12	2	2	109	100	44	13-4-1-2	7-8-1-0	2-6-1-1	W2
d-Montreal	34	19	13	2	0	89	77	40	12-5-2-0	7-8-0-0	4-5-1-0	L2
Pittsburgh	34	22	10	2	0	110	79	46	11-6-1-0	11-4-1-0	8-2-0-0	W1
Atlanta	36	19	12	1	4	117	104	43	10-7-0-2	9-5-1-2	6-2-0-2	L1
Tampa Bay	33	19	10	2	2	104	109	42	10-2-1-1	9-8-1-1	7-1-0-2	W4
NY Rangers	35	20	14	1	0	105	91	41	8-8-1-0	12-6-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Boston	32	17	11	1	3	89	68	38	8-6-1-2	9-5-0-1	5-3-1-1	L1
Carolina	32	15	13	0	4	90	99	34	7-5-0-1	8-8-0-3	4-3-0-3	L1
Buffalo	34	14	16	4	0	89	97	32	8-9-1-0	6-7-3-0	5-4-1-0	W1
Ottawa	35	14	17	3	1	81	106	32	8-9-1-1	5-8-2-0	3-4-2-1	L2
Florida	31	15	16	0	0	85	78	30	7-6-0-0	8-10-0-0	5-5-0-0	W2
Toronto	33	12	17	2	2	75	102	28	8-7-2-1	4-10-0-1	4-6-0-0	L3
New Jersey	33	9	22	1	1	59	103	20	5-8-1-1	4-14-0-0	2-8-0-0	L3
NY Islanders	30	6	18	3	3	65	104	18	4-7-1-2	2-11-2-1	2-6-1-1	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Dallas	34	21	10	1	2	100	92	45	12-3-1-1	9-7-0-1	6-2-1-1	W3
d-Detroit	32	20	8	3	1	105	88	44	12-4-2-1	8-4-1-0	4-4-2-0	L2
d-Vancouver	31	19	8	2	2	101	78	42	11-3-1-1	8-5-1-1	7-2-1-0	W4
Colorado	34	19	11	4	0	121	110	42	10-5-1-0	9-6-3-0	6-2-2-0	L1
Nashville	32	17	9	4	2	83	79	40	8-2-3-2	9-7-1-0	8-1-1-0	L1
Anaheim	38	18	16	2	2	98	111	40	11-6-0-1	7-10-2-1	5-4-0-1	L1
Los Angeles	32	19	12	1	0	95	75	39	11-2-1-0	8-10-0-0	6-3-1-0	W1
San Jose	33	17	11	4	1	100	94	39	8-4-2-1	9-7-2-0	6-3-0-1	W2
Chicago	35	18	14	2	1	111	103	39	10-9-0-0	8-5-2-1	6-3-1-0	W2
Phoenix	32	15	10	4	3	89	93	37	6-4-2-2	9-6-2-1	4-4-0-2	L1
Columbus	33	17	13	2	1	85	91	37	9-8-0-1	8-5-2-0	4-5-1-0	W1
St. Louis	33	16	12	2	3	86	93	37	10-4-0-2	6-8-2-1	4-4-1-1	W1
Minnesota	32	15	13	1	3	79	91	34	8-7-0-2	7-6-1-1	5-3-1-1	W2
Calgary	35	14	18	1	2	92	103	31	9-7-0-0	5-11-1-2	4-5-0-1	L3
Edmonton	31	12	14	1	4	84	108	29	6-8-1-1	6-6-1-2	6-3-0-1	W1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Buffalo 5 Anaheim 2
St. Louis 4 Atlanta 2
Columbus 3 Calgary 1
Washington 5 New Jersey 1
Dallas 5 Montreal 2
Los Angeles 5 Colorado 0
Edmonton at San Jose
Monday's results
Vancouver 3 St. Louis 1
Atlanta 6 Toronto 3
Minnesota 4 Calgary 1
Anaheim 3 Boston 0
Florida 5 Philadelphia 0
Pittsburgh 6 Phoenix 1
Tampa Bay 5 Carolina 1
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Florida at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

BLUE JACKETS 3, FLAMES 1

First Period
1. Columbus, Voracek 6 (Methot, Brassard) 5:14
Penalties — Jackman Cal, Boll Clb (fighting) 2:59, Regehr Cal, Sestito Clb (fighting), Stralman Clb (holding) 13:10, Iginla Cal (boarding) 13:59, Calgary bench (too many men; served by Jokinen) 18:23.
Second Period
2. Columbus, Boll 3 (Sestito, Wilson) 11:18
3. Calgary, Jokinen 7 (Iginla, Giordano) 16:34 (pp)
Penalties — Vermette Clb (interference) 6:46, Vermette Clb (interference) 16:01.
Third Period
4. Columbus, Klesla 2, 19:02 (en)
Penalties — Morrison Cal (tripping) 5:12, Columbus bench (too many men; served by Brassard) 15:20.
Shots

Calgary	9	11	10	30
Columbus	12	17	8	37

Goal — Calgary: Karlsson (L,2-2-2); Columbus: Garon (W,8-4-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Calgary: 1-4; Columbus: 0-3.
Att. — 12,443 (18,144) at Columbus, Ohio.

STARS 5, HABS 2

First Period
1. Dallas, Burish 4 (Ott, Robidas) 6:59
2. Dallas, Benn 8 (Ott) 13:59 (sh)
Penalties — Morrow Dal (tripping) 2:38, Subban Mtl, Sutherby Dal (fighting) 12:38, Segal Dal (interference) 13:43.
Second Period
3. Dallas, Skrastins 2 (Neal, Niskanen) 2:31
4. Montreal, Darche 6 (Moen, Pyatt) 10:43
5. Dallas, Richards 16 (Robidas, Eriksson) 17:00 (pp)
Penalty — Subban Mtl (interference) 16:14.
Third Period
6. Montreal, Gionta 12 (Gomez) 12:15 (sh)
7. Dallas, Eriksson 15 (Ribeiro, Robidas) 13:08
Penalties — Burish Dal (hooking) 5:44, Hamrlik Mtl (hooking) 11:00, Picard Mtl, Morrow Dal, Benn Dal (roughing) 19:44.
Shots

Montreal	10	10	9	29
Dallas	7	5	5	17

Goal — Montreal: Price (L,18-11-2); Dallas: Lehtonen (W,15-7-3). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Montreal: 0-4; Dallas: 1-2.
Att. — 17,805 (18,532) at Dallas.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Crosby, Pgh	27	30	57
Stamkos, TB	26	21	47
St. Louis, TB	13	30	43
Perry, Ana	17	22	39
Datsyuk, Det	12	27	39
D.Sedin, Vcr	16	22	38
B.Richards, Dal	15	23	38
Ovechkin, Wash	12	26	38
H.Sedin, Vcr	6	31	37
Getzlaf, Ana	13	22	35
Byfuglien, Atl	11	24	35
Sharp, Chi	18	16	34
Eriksson, Dal	14	20	34
Duchene, Col	13	21	34
Backstrom, Wash	11	23	34
Semin, Wash	18	15	33
E.Staal, Car	16	17	33
Roy, Buf	10	23	33
Zetterberg, Det	10	23	33
Toews, Chi	15	17	32
Kopitar, LA	14	18	32
P.Stastny, Col	13	19	32
M.Richards, Pha	11	21	32
Giroux, Pha	16	15	31
Heatley, SJ	14	17	31
Iginla, Cal	14	17	31

Not including last night's games

FOOTBALL

NCAA

BOWL GAMES

All times Eastern
Last night's result
BEEF 'O' BRADY'S BOWL
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Louisville 31 Southern Mississippi 28
Tonight's game
MAACO BOWL
At Las Vegas
Utah (10-2) vs. Boise State (11-1), 8 p.m.
Tomorrow's game
POINSETTIA BOWL
At San Diego, Calif.
San Diego State (8-4) vs. Navy (8-3), 8 p.m.
Friday's game
HAWAII BOWL
At Honolulu
Hawaii (10-3) vs. Tulsa (9-3), 8 p.m.
Sunday's game
LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA BOWL
At Detroit
Toledo (8-4) vs. Florida International (6-6), 8:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 27
INDEPENDENCE BOWL
At Shreveport, La.
Georgia Tech (6-6) vs. Air Force (8-4), 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 28
CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL
At Orlando, Fla.
North Carolina State (8-4) vs. West Virginia (9-3), 6:30 p.m.
INSIGHT BOWL
At Tempe, Ariz.
Missouri (10-2) vs. Iowa (7-5), 10 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 29
MILITARY BOWL
At Landover, Md.
East Carolina (6-6) vs. Maryland (8-4), 2:30 p.m.
TEXAS BOWL
At Houston
Baylor (7-5) vs. Illinois (6-6), 6 p.m.
ALAMO BOWL
At San Antonio
Arizona (7-5) vs. Oklahoma State (10-2), 9 p.m.

SOCCER

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Yesterday's results
Celtic 1 Kilmarnock 1
Dundee United vs. Rangers (ppd., snow)

SPAIN

COPA DEL REY

Round of 16
First Leg
Yesterday's results
Barcelona 0, Athletic Bilbao 0
Cordoba 1, Deportivo La Coruna 1
Valencia 0, Villarreal 0

FRANCE

LIGUE 1

Yesterday's result
Lorient 0 Montpellier 0

GERMANY

GERMAN CUP

Round of 16
Yesterday's results
Augsburg 0, Schalke 1
Hoffenheim 2, Borussia Moenchengladbach 0
Kickers Offenbach vs. Nuremberg (ppd.)
Koblenz vs. Kaiserslautern (ppd.)

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Boston	22	4	.846	—
d-Miami	21	9	.700	3
d-Chicago	17	9	.654	5
Atlanta	18	12	.600	6
New York	16	12	.571	7
Orlando	16	12	.571	7
Indiana	13	14	.481	9½
Philadelphia	11	17	.393	12
Milwaukee	10	16	.385	12
Toronto	10	18	.357	13
Charlotte	9	19	.321	14
Detroit	9	19	.321	14
New Jersey	9	20	.310	14½
Cleveland	8	20	.286	15
Washington	7	19	.269	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	24	3	.889	—
Dallas	23	5	.821	1½
d-L.A. Lakers	21	7	.750	3½
d-Oklahoma City	20	9	.690	5
d-Utah	20	9	.690	5
Denver	16	10	.615	7½
New Orleans	16	12	.571	8½
Portland	15	14	.517	10
Phoenix	13	14	.481	11
Houston	13	15	.464	11½
Memphis	12	17	.414	13
Golden State	9	18	.333	15
L.A. Clippers	8	21	.276	17
Minnesota	6	23	.207	19
Sacramento	5	20	.200	18

d-division leader
Last night's results
Oklahoma City 99 Charlotte 81
Dallas 105 Orlando 99
Chicago 121 Philadelphia 76
New Jersey 101 Memphis 94
Golden State at Sacramento
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers
Monday's results
Atlanta 91 Orlando 81
Utah 101 Cleveland 90
Indiana 94 New Orleans 93
Washington 108 Charlotte 75
Dallas 98 Miami 96
San Antonio 118 Phoenix 110
Portland 106 Milwaukee 80
Houston 121 Golden State 112
L.A. Clippers 113 Minnesota 90
Tonight's games
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Washington, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
New Jersey at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Denver at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

SCORING AVERAGE

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	24	213	196	658	27.4
Stoudemire, NYK	28	281	174	742	26.5
Bryant, LAL	28	246	191	724	25.9
Ellis, GOL	27	260	119	680	25.2
Nowitzki, DAL	27	252	141	670	24.8
Rose, CHI	24	224	93	584	24.3
James, MIA	30	244	203	729	24.3
Anthony, DEN	24	200	161	576	24.0
Gordon, LAC	27	210	185	645	23.9
Wade, MIA	29	236	183	682	23.5
Martin, HOU	28	185	220	655	23.4
Westbrook, OKC	28	217	203	646	23.1
Williams, UTA	29	214	171	646	22.3
Howard, ORL	25	188	163	539	21.6
Bargnani, TOR	26	211	102	556	21.4
Granger, IND	26	191	111	553	21.3
Beasley, MIN	27	231	90	574	21.3
Gay, MEM	27	219	92	566	21.0
Love, MIN	29	204	157	603	20.8
Griffin, LAC	29	235	131	602	20.8
Scola, HOU	28	233	100	566	20.2
Gasol, LAL	28	214	125	553	19.8
Ginobili, SAN	27	164	140	531	19.7
West, NOR	27	209	100	519	19.2
Lopez, NJN	28	191	153	535	19.1
Aldridge, POR	29	219	112	553	19.1
J. Richardson, ORL	26	186	57	492	18.9
Pierce, BOS	26	167	116	480	18.5
Felton, NYK	28	185	95	516	18.4

Not including last night's games

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with RHP Bobby Jenks on a two-year contract. Designated INF Brent Dlugach for assignment.
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with OF Travis Buck on a minor league contract.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Designated C Ryan Budde for assignment, who refused assignment and elected free agency.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Agreed to terms with RHP Rich Harden on a one-year contract.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with OF Corey Patterson, RHP Winston Abreu, C Ryan Budde, LHP Sean Henn, LHP Mike Hinckley and RHP Brian Stokes on minor league contracts.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
HOUSTON ASTROS — Named Jamie Garcia pitching coordinator, Ty Van Burkleo roving hitting instructor, Frank Renner strength and conditioning coordinator, Jamey Snodgrass medical coordinator, Travis Driskill pitching coach and Bryan Baca trainer for Lancaster (California), Joel Chimelis hitting coach, Dave Borkowski pitching coach and Grant Hufford trainer of Lexington (SAL), Mark Bailey hitting coach and Kevin Ortega trainer of Tri-City (NY-P), Omar Lopez manager, Josh Bonifay hitting coach, Rick Aponte pitching coach and Michael Rendon trainer of Greeneville (Appalachian), Ed Romero manager, Edgar Alfonzo hitting coach and Charley Taylor pitching coach of the Astros (GCL), and Jose Martinez pitching coach, Joel Santos assistant pitching coach, Juan Zapata outfield coach, Johan Maya infield coach, Sixto Ortega catching coach, Ambiorix Reyes trainer and Edwin Garcia assistant trainer of the Astros (Dominican).
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Acquired C Rob Johnson from Seattle for a player to be named or cash considerations.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

GARY SOUTHSHORE RAILCATS — Signed OF Adam Klein and OF Cody McMorris.
SIOUX CITY EXPLORERS — Released OF Jacob Cruz. Acquired OF Josh Flores from Joliet (Northern) to complete an earlier trade.
WINNIPEG GOLDEYES — Signed INF Price Kendall.

BASKETBALL

NBA

CHARLOTTE BOBCATS — Recalled G Sherron Collins from Maine (NBADL).
PHOENIX SUNS — Released C Earl Barron.

FOOTBALL

NFL

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Placed WR Terrell Owens on injured reserve.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Placed QB Tony Romo on injured reserve.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed OL Dennis Landolt and K Fabrizio Scaccia to the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed DE Pannel Egboh and CB Chris Hawkins to practice squad.

HOCKEY

NHL

ANAHEIM DUCKS — Recalled LW Josh Green from Syracuse (AHL).
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Extended their agreement with Springfield (AHL) through the 2011-12 season.
LOS ANGELES KINGS — Activated LW Marco Sturm from the non-roster injured list.
NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Placed G Rick DiPietro and D Mike Mottau on injured reserve.
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled F Johan Harju from Norfolk (AHL).

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New England	12	2	0	.857	446	303
N.Y. Jets	10	4	0	.714	295	259
Miami	7	7	0	.500	239	261
Buffalo	4	10	0	.286	273	353
SOUTH						
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	381	342
Jacksonville	8	6	0	.571	319	365
Tennessee	6	8	0	.429	322	282
Houston	5	9	0	.357	333	386
NORTH						
x-Pittsburgh	10	4	0	.714	307	220
Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	324	253
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357	252	271
Cincinnati	3	11	0	.214	281	362
WEST						
Kansas City	9	5	0	.643	322	281
San Diego	8	6	0	.571	388	260
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	353	330
Denver	3	11	0	.214	292	415

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	10	4	0	.714	412	339
N.Y. Giants	9	5	0	.643	360	288
Washington	5	9	0	.357	268	343
Dallas	5	9	0	.357	354	396
SOUTH						
x-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	369	261
New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	354	270
Tampa Bay	8	6	0	.571	280	290
Carolina	2	12	0	.143	183	350
NORTH						
Chicago	10	4	0	.714	293	242
Green Bay	8	6	0	.571	333	220
Minnesota	5	9	0	.357	244	314
Detroit	4	10	0	.286	308	329
WEST						
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	258	295
Seattle	6	8	0	.429	279	363
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	250	314
Arizona	4	10	0	.286	255	370

x — clinched playoff berth.

WEEK 15

Monday's result
Chicago 40 Minnesota 14
Sunday's results
Atlanta 34 Seattle 18
Baltimore 30 New Orleans 24
Buffalo 17 Miami 14
Carolina 19 Arizona 12
Cincinnati 19 Cleveland 17
Dallas 33 Washington 30
Detroit 23 Tampa Bay 20 (OT)
Indianapolis 34 Jacksonville 24
Kansas City 27 St. Louis 13
New England 31 Green Bay 27
N.Y. Jets 22 Pittsburgh 17
Oakland 39 Denver 23
Philadelphia 38 N.Y. Giants 31
Tennessee 31 Houston 17

WEEK 16

Tonmorrow's game
(All times Eastern)
Carolina at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m.
Saturday's game
Dallas at Arizona, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday's games
Tennessee at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
New England at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Miami, 1 p.m.
Washington at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
San Diego at Cincinnati, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Green Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Seattle at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 27
New Orleans at Atlanta, 8:30 p.m.

5 drive

By comparison

Hyundai Tucson
Base price: $22,800
Sharp-looking second-generation model has become a popular choice.

Jeep Compass
Base price: $17,200
A low price is this small ute's primary appeal. For on-road use only.

Volkswagen Tiguan
Base price: $29,500
Powerful turbo engine and high-quality interior worth the premium price.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

A diet makes you look sporty, even if there's no more muscle

▶ The RVR is 37 centimetres shorter than the standard Outlander. It's definitely a sporty little number, despite what its 143-horsepower four-cylinder engine implies.

This SUV should earn a spot in the big leagues

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

It's not every day that Mitsubishi introduces new models to North America, but it had to happen sooner or later.

Technically, though, the 2011 RVR (called the Outlander Sport in the U.S.) is a spin-off of the current Outlander wagon. In fact, both models use the same platform as the compact Lancer sedan. But with a 37-centimetre reduction in overall length over the Outlander, the RVR actually appears radically different. It's also geared to a different audience and seems destined to fulfill a different mission in life.

Without doubt, the RVR's attractively proportioned shape appears, well, sporty, as opposed to the sheetmetal on the family-values-looking Outlander. In fact, only the senior Outlander's outside mirrors are shared with the upstart. From stem to stern, the design is more cohesive and works well with the Lancer Evolution-style open-mouth nosepiece that Mitsubishi claims was inspired by jet-fighter air intakes.

Naturally, a price must be paid for pruning more than a foot from the RVR's length. The bigger Outlander is available with a third row and the RVR is not. Simple.

Although the cargo hold has been similarly shortened, it remains more than adequate.

If need be, the storage space can be maxed out by folding forward the split 60:40 rear seat.

The five-passenger seating arrangement will suit most needs although we wonder about the polka-dot-like base seat coverings. For drivers, a display screen indicating fuel, outside temperature, odometer reading and other vitals separates the dashboard's large twin gauge pods.

The RVR's thrust is provided by the Lancer-based 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine that makes 148 horsepower and 145 pound-feet of torque.

That's not exactly earth-shattering compared to the Hyundai Tucson's 175-horsepower engine or the Volkswagen Tiguan's 200 turbocharged horses, but it should be enough to make the 1,410-kilogram RVR (about 180 kilograms lighter than the original Outlander) perform in a lively manner.

The RVR's performance might not entirely live up to its sporty intentions (Mitsubishi has more potent four-cylinder engines that it could easily draw upon), but for style and content, this shrink-wrapped wagon should earn a spot in the big leagues.

Mitsubishi RVR

What you should know about the 2011 Mitsubishi RVR:

- **Type:** Four-door compact front- /four-wheel-drive sport utility vehicle.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC four-cylinder (148).
- **Transmissions:** Five-speed manual; continuously variable (opt.)
- **Stats:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 8.7/6.4 (MT)
- **Base price:** $23,450 (Including destination).

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2010 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT shown.§

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DECK THE DRIVEWAY HOLIDAY EVENT

Dodge.ca/Offers

DODGE Caravan Kids

SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO

Wise customers read the fine print: • ♦ ‡ †† § This Deck the Driveway Holiday Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating dealers on or after December 1, 2010. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating dealer for complete details and conditions. •$19,988 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (24F+DJ9) only and includes $8,000 Consumer Cash Discount. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. See participating dealer for complete details. ♦The up to $500 First Free Payment Offer includes an amount on account of GST/HST (where applicable) and in the Province of Quebec, GST and QST. Customers may choose to have the up to $500 (including taxes) First Free Payment Offer applied to reduce the selling price after taxes of their new vehicle purchase, rather than to cover their first free payment. Offer is available to all retail customers that purchase a new eligible 2010/2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram from December 1, 2010 through January 3, 2011 (excluding only the following 2010 and 2011 models: Jeep Patriot 4x2/4x4 Sport, Compass 4x2/4x4 Sport, Wrangler 2-door Sport, Dodge Journey SE, Grand Caravan Cargo Van & Canada Value Package, Caliber Canada Value Package & SE Plus, Ram 1500 Regular Cab 4x2/4x4 and Ram Cab and Chassis). *Consumer Cash discounts are offered on most new 2010 and select 2011 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-dealer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your dealer for complete details. ††Customer Choice Financing for 36-, 48- and 60-month terms on approved credit through TD Financing Services and Chrysler Canada Inc. is available on select new 2010 and 2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram vehicles. Example: $19,988 financed at 5.99% APR over 60 months with payments amortized over 75 months equals 130 bi-weekly payments of $148 and one final payment of $4,655 for a cost of borrowing of $3,842.69 and a total obligation of $23,830.69. Taxes, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage and wear and tear charges, any dealer administration fees and other applicable fees and charges not included. Dealers may sell for less. See participating dealers for complete details. §2010 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount and $500 First Free Payment Offer: $25,595. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. ‡Based on U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) scoring system for 2010 model year Dodge Grand Caravan. ‡‡Offer available to customers who have purchased or leased an eligible new 2010 or 2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram vehicle from participating dealers in Canada between December 1, 2010 and January 3, 2011 and who have financed or leased their vehicle through TD Financing Services and Chrysler Canada Inc. Customer must take delivery of their eligible new vehicle between December 1, 2010 and January 3, 2011. Customer must finance or lease their eligible new vehicle through TD Financing Services and Chrysler Canada Inc. on a retail instalment contract or retail lease for a minimum term of 36 months and a maximum term of 96 months. Customer must finance or lease the vehicle for the entire term of the contract. At contract's end, customers have the choice of returning their vehicle through a Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram dealership with no further obligations (except payment of a $199 return fee and excess wear and tear, mileage and similar charges), financing the remaining balance for the rest of the amortization period at then-current standard rates or paying the residual balance in full. Some conditions apply. Customer Choice Financing offered by TD in Quebec is subject to different terms and conditions. All advertised Customer Choice Financing offers are TD offers. Example: 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (24F+DJ9) with a Purchase Price of

▶ Say hello to the Ford Grand C-Max.

MICRO-VANS READY TO KICK SOME SERIOUS BUTT

Minivans were never cool, even in the '80s and '90s, when they ruled the land, because baby boomers began to breed like rabbits, and needed some wheels to take their offspring to organized activities.

As soon as there were cooler looking people-mover alternatives — first SUVs, then crossovers — minivan sales tanked. Adding to the slide were baby boomers moving out of their family-raising years.

Many major automakers don't even offer a minivan anymore (Chevrolet, Ford, Hyundai, etc.). But a new chapter has just opened for the minivan and it looks exciting. Okay maybe not bungee-jumping exciting — but interesting at least. They're calling them micro-vans but they're not really that "micro." I guess this is just to signify they are smaller than "regular" minivans.

All of them feature three rows of seating, sliding rear doors, and are based on C-segment vehicles, which are compacts like Mazda3, Ford Focus and Chevrolet Cruze.

For a time, Mazda5 was the only micro-van in our market. The Kia Rondo joined the festivities, though its low, low profile didn't add much notoriety to the segment.

But now there is lots of micro-van action.

Not only is there an all-new 2012 Mazda5 coming early in the new year, but also both Ford and Chevrolet will jump into the segment during 2011.

The Ford C-Max will be the first vehicle in this market to offer the automaker's new 1.6-litre EcoBoost four-cylinder engine, which features both turbocharging and direct injection.

Ford suggests an EcoBoost-equipped C-Max will deliver the best highway fuel economy of any seven-seat vehicle in the market.

Chevrolet's upcoming micro-van, the Orlando, debuts first in Europe then arrives in Canada by summer.

The Orlando will not be available in the U.S, which speaks volumes about how GM recognizes our tendency toward practicality and good sense — something Canadians should take pride in.

Micro-vans give you a lot of vehicle for their footprint. They also appeal to a wide demographic — empty nesters, dog owners, active-lifestyle types, families on a budget, and to a growing number of buyers of any stripe who need a bit of room but recognize that one doesn't always have to super-size.

Mazda Canada was in fact, very conscious of not making its new Mazda5 bigger than the last one. "We resisted that temptation, because the concept works beautifully as it is," says Greg Young, Mazda Canada's PR director.

▶ The new Mazda5.

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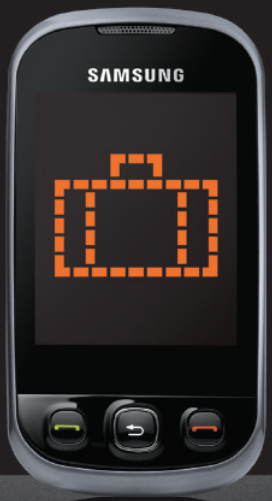

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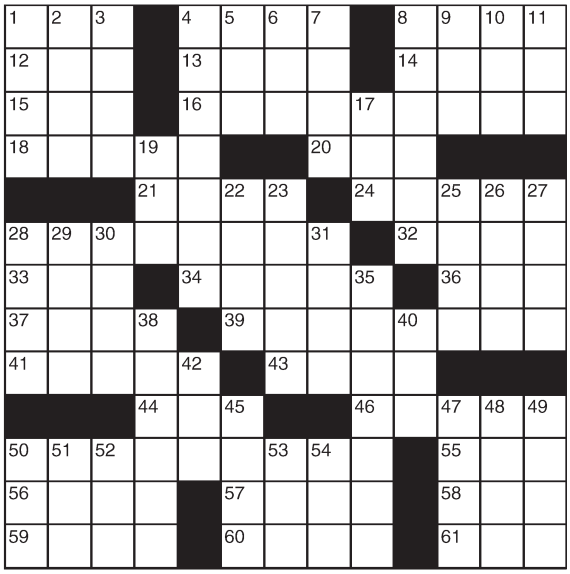
Crossword



Across

1 Request
4 Movie pig
8 Interoffice note
12 Writer Buscaglia
13 In due time
14 Ahmadinejad's land
15 Coffee vessel
16 Runner
18 Source of igneous rock
20 Spotted
21 Spheres
24 Parade
28 Confirm
32 Harvard rival
33 — carte
34 Baghdad resident
36 Sailor
37 Hard work
39 Flood
41 Rio Grande feeder
43 Casino cubes
44 Poolroom tool
46 Robbery
50 Convert to cash
55 "— Town"
56 Burden
57 Grand tale
58 Pugilists' org.
59 Summertime pest
60 Bottle part
61 Cleopatra's slayer

Down

1 Astringent
2 Antitoxins
3 "King —"
4 Rival of Captain Morgan
5 Santa —
6 "— voyage!"
7 Concludes
8 Carnival area
9 Historic period
10 Wrestling surface
11 Inseparable
17 "— the Walrus"
19 Miss Piggy's pronoun
22 Adriatic Sea port
23 Leave one's seat
25 Sitar music
26 Coagulate
27 "... oh, where can —?"
28 Seductress
29 Burn remedy
30 Secular
31 Iso-
35 Restrained
38 Grasshopper's cousin
40 Cee follower
42 — generis
45 Paradise
47 Corn Belt state
48 Second-stringers
49 Snare
50 Journal
51 Hostel
52 Sine-non link
53 Mimic
54 Twitch

▶ Yesterday's answer

C	R	A	B	■	D	E	A	R	■	T	W	A
M	O	N	O	■	O	G	R	E	■	W	I	G
T	W	I	N	P	E	A	K	S	■	O	N	E
■	■	■	B	A	R	D	■	T	U	S	K	S
D	E	P	O	T	■	■	F	A	M	E	■	■
I	R	A	N	■	S	T	A	R	W	A	R	S
P	S	I	■	L	E	A	S	T	■	T	A	I
S	E	R	G	E	A	N	T	■	C	E	N	T
■	■	E	L	A	N	■	■	F	O	R	T	E
A	D	D	O	N	■	B	A	U	M	■	■	■
L	E	O	■	D	O	U	B	L	E	B	E	D
O	A	F	■	E	D	G	E	■	L	I	L	Y
E	L	F	■	R	E	S	T	■	Y	O	K	E

Sudoku

2		7	6		5	4		9
		3				7		
4	1						6	3
			5		2			
	6						5	
			8		1			
9	7						2	1
		4				8		
8		2	7		6	9		4

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	2	8	9	6	4	1	7	5
1	4	7	2	5	3	8	9	6
9	6	5	7	8	1	4	2	3
8	3	2	4	7	9	6	5	1
6	5	1	3	2	8	7	4	9
4	7	9	6	1	5	3	8	2
5	8	3	1	4	2	9	6	7
7	1	4	5	9	6	2	3	8
2	9	6	8	3	7	5	1	4

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Happy Birthday Steve!!! I hope you have a great day! Hopefully this year will be full of luck and happiness! I love you very much, (gach la). Will you marry me? **KRISTEN XOXO**

My Bella, In you I have found the love of my life. My heart skips a beat when you're near, and I am nothing but thankful for having you to share with. Looking forward to a wonderful future with you. Truly, madly, deeply, **CHRIS**

L.L. My darling, wanted to remind you how much I care for you, how happy I am to have you in my life, and that I look forward to every passing day with you. Loving you endlessly, **R.B.**

Dear Kimmy, Ever since I first laid my eyes upon you, I have been living on cloud nine. I can't wait to wake up every morning next to you for the rest of my life. Love, **KARL.**

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Min -11°	Min -11°	Min -12°
Max -7°	Max -7°	Max -1°

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta". **WEEKDAYS 6AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Are the conclusions you have reached about a certain situation your own conclusions, or are they ideas you have picked up from other people or from the media? Think for yourself today.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You may be tempted to do something that will gain you an advantage over your rivals, but is it ethical? If not you are strongly advised to play by the rules.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Just because the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence does not mean you have been moving in the wrong direction. All roads eventually lead to where you most need to go.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 An idea or belief you have always taken for granted is beginning to show signs of wear and tear. Maybe it's time to replace it with something a bit more up to date.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 A relationship is at a turning point and what happens today or tomorrow will seal its fate one way or the other. It may not be easy to call it a day but if that's what your heart tells you then what choice do you have?

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Mercury, your ruler, is at right angles to Jupiter today, which means you will need to make an extra effort to get your message across. Make sure you shout at the right people.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 History always repeats itself, so if what you see or hear reminds you of the past make sure you act on that knowledge.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Your trust in someone has taken a bit of a nose-dive in recent weeks and what happens today is unlikely to change your opinion that they don't know what they are doing. Keep your distance. Stupidity can be contagious.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Take what you hear from a colleague or friend with a large pinch of salt. Mind planet Mercury, at odds with your ruler Jupiter, warns they don't know what they are talking about.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Take the chance to go back and take care of something you should have dealt with a long time ago. If you still can't get it right then maybe it's just too much for you. Do something else.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You may be at a loss to explain why a friend or relative is acting so strangely but you know how illogical some people can be. Not everyone shares your ability to focus only on facts.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Hopefully you know how to keep a secret, because if you go blabbing about a friend's peccadilloes it will be you who ends up looking bad.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, FILE)

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